

February 1, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Attn: William T. Sessions, Associate Deputy Administrator
Stop 0249 Rom 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I am a producer of pecans from Tift County, Georgia. We have produced pecans on our farm for several generations. I support the Country of Origin Labeling Bill with one exception. My concern is that as the bill is written it does not cover pecans. As a pecan producer, I would encourage the USDA to take appropriate steps to do what is necessary to have pecans included in the Country of Origin Labeling. Pecans are being imported into the USA from other countries and it would be beneficial for the consumer to know the origin of the pecans they are buying.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this request as I feel pecans were unfairly eliminated from the Country of Origin Labeling Bill and wanted to express my concerns.

Thank You,



T. H. Matthews